



United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548

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General Government Division

B-270634

December 1, 1995

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate

Dear Senator Feinstein:

This is in response to your request of November 29, 1995, for available information on the numbers of federal employees who may be subject to furlough due to any further lapse in fiscal year 1996 appropriations authority. You requested that the information be provided by agencies under the jurisdiction of each appropriation subcommittee.

It should be recognized that the data we have do not represent all of the employees that may be subject to furlough if the appropriation bills or another continuing resolution is not enacted. We summarized data from over 100 contingency plans that OMB provided us covering the 14 cabinet departments and 52 independent agencies. In several instances, the agency's contingency plan did not contain an estimate of the number of employees expected to be furloughed or identified as excepted from furlough. In addition, OMB did not provide us the plans of any agency with fewer than 100 full-time federal employees, which is why we excluded those agencies from our analysis.

As of November 30, 1995, 7 of the 13 appropriations bills have been enacted. For the agencies covered by each of the six appropriation bills not enacted as of that date, enclosures I through V provide data available from each agency's contingency shutdown plan on the number of employees subject to a funding lapse furlough. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) made the plans available to us in October 1995.

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If you have further questions, please call me at (202) 512-8676 or John Tavares at (202) 512-2814.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Nye Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

L. Nye Stevens  
Director, Federal Management  
and Workforce Issues

Enclosures - 5

SUMMARY OF DATA AVAILABLE ON THE NUMBER OF  
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO MAY BE SUBJECT TO FURLOUGH IN THE EVENT  
OF A FURTHER FY 1996 FUNDING LAPSE  
(As of November 30, 1995)

FY 1996 appropriation bill for	Excepted employees		Employees subject to furlough	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary <sup>a</sup>	108,231	63.8	61,381	36.2
District of Columbia	OMB did not provide a plan to GAO			
Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs	Plan data did not contain sufficient furlough data			
Interior	62,473	52.7	56,000	47.3
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education <sup>b</sup>	25,521	42.5	34,570	57.5
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies	202,056	78.1	56,506	21.9

<sup>a</sup> Excludes information on the Judiciary.

<sup>b</sup> Data reflects HHS estimates only; the plans of Labor and Education did not contain furlough data.

Source: GAO analysis of agency contingency shutdown plans.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND THE JUDICIARY

Cabinet department or agency	Excepted employees		Employees subject to furlough	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Commerce	12,628	33.5	25,075	66.5
Justice	74,334	75.4	24,211	24.6
State	18,540	69.6	8,088	30.4
Transportation: Maritime Administration only	555	52.9	494	47.1
<b>Independent agencies:</b>				
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency	44	13.5	281	86.5
Commission on Civil Rights	10	9.5	95	90.5
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Federal Communications Commission	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Federal Maritime Commission	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Federal Trade Commission	Plan did not contain furlough data			
International Trade Commission	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Office of U. S. Trade Representative (Executive Office of the President)	28	16.7	140	83.3
Securities and Exchange Commission	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Small Business Administration	2,092	41.1	2,997	58.9
United States Information Agency	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Totals	108,231	63.8	61,381	36.2

Note: Excludes information on the Judiciary and 12 independent agencies or commissions for which OMB did not provide contingency plans to GAO.

INTERIOR

Cabinet department or agency	Excepted employees		Employees subject to furlough	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Interior	22,000	28.2	56,000	71.8
<b>Independent agencies:</b>				
Forest Service (USDA)	40,473	100	0	0
National Gallery of Art	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Smithsonian Institution	Plan did not contain furlough data			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62,473</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>47.3</b>

Note: Excludes information on certain Department of Energy agencies and programs and 16 other independent agencies for which OMB did not provide contingency plans.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION

Cabinet department or agency	Excepted employees		Employees subject to furlough	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Education	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Health and Human Services	25,521	42.5	34,570	57.5
Labor	Plan did not contain furlough data			
<b>Independent agencies:</b>				
Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service	Plan did not contain furlough data			
National Labor Relations Board	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Railroad Retirement Board	Plan did not contain furlough data			

Note: Excludes information on 15 independent agencies or commissions for which OMB did not provide contingency plans to GAO.

VA, HUD, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Cabinet department or agency	Excepted employees		Employees subject to furlough	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Veterans Affairs	200,450	84.6	36,354	15.4
Housing and Urban Development	Plan did not contain furlough data			
<b>Independent agencies:</b>				
American Battle Monuments Com.	26	7.0	345	93.0
Army Cemetary Expenses	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Corporation for National and Community Service	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Consumer Product Safety Com.	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Environmental Protection Agency	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Federal Deposit Insurance Fund	All employees would be excepted			
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Plan did not contain furlough data			
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	1,573	7.4	19,774	92.6
National Credit Union Administration	All employees would be excepted			
National Science Foundation	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Office of Science and Technology Policy (Executive Office of the President)	7	17.5	33	82.5
Resolution Trust Corporation: Office of The Inspector General	Plan did not contain furlough data			
Selective Service System	Plan did not contain furlough data			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>202,056</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>56,506</b>	<b>21.9</b>

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